

The Divided States of America

Ever since we were children, we were taught one very important lesson, treat others how you want to be treated. As children, this seemed as though it was a very simple statement with easy interpretation. As we matured, so did our values. People began to be split into "clicks" at school. It's common to hear in a high school hallway people say "She is a popular kid" or "They are a part of the nerdy group." Just from these social dividers, people assume that because someone is different then they can no longer be friends with them. Why has a society that is built on the idea of fair treatment turned so bitter to each other? Why must we feel it's ok to discriminate and hate others who we do not understand? There is one common root, that is our parents. The adult world is a place full of negative comments and diversion. Society normalizes the idea of adults saying horrible things about the people they hate. Parents are even willingly saying them in front of other people, even their own children. Obviously, children mimic what their parents say and do. Which includes making fun of others for being different. How are we to create an inclusive community when the people who are in charge of society say such nasty things to each other? How are we supposed to be kind to one another when the adults who told us "treat others how you want to be treated" break their own rule? Adults claim they want inclusivity in their cities but do not follow through to create it.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, an 18th century philosopher, once came up with the idea that all children are born pure and that society is the one to corrupt them. Furthermore, displaying the idea that children mold their personality to the world around them. Their world includes their parents. The world parents emulate is full of political differences. Politics have made it ok to say horrible things about others and to name call people just because they have different beliefs. Politics make it ok to ostracize others for their differences in opinion. Our country is called the UNITED States of America and we are not even united in our own families. If we are divided in our own homes, how are we supposed to be connected in a community? Children see this divide. They are not at the age of being able to completely form their own opinions. So children copy their parents with what they do, say, and believe. Creating divides among students.

To create a united community, we must break this cycle of normalized hatred. We must bring back old ideas of treating others the way we want to be treated. We must embrace our differences and stop shaming them. Only when this happens, can we create a connected community. If there is one thing I want you to take away from this article is that we can do so much more together than when we are divided.